

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 7-16 have been added. Claims 1-16 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended. The drawing and the Specification have also been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

II. DRAWING OBJECTION

The Examiner has objected to the drawing because the Examiner believes that the sole figure should be labeled "Figure 1." Applicant has amended the drawing to be labeled "Fig. 1." Applicant has also amended the Specification to refer to this sole figure as "Fig. 1."

In view of the foregoing, the objection to the drawing should be withdrawn.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3 AND 5 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the Examiner believes these claims are indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 3 and 5 to clarify the subject recited therein. It is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 5 are definite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is requested.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 4-6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,591,296 to Ghanime (the "Ghanime patent"). It is respectfully submitted that the Ghanime patent does not anticipate any of claims 1 and 4-6, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, the following:

a table which associates each of the predefined operating states with: i) a respective distribution group to whom the SMS message and/or email message is to be sent, and ii) information identifying particular

information to be included in the SMS message and/or email message,

wherein after one of the predefined operating states is detected, the respective message and/or alarm associated with the one of the predefined operating states is sent via the SMS message and/or e-mail to the respective distribution group associated with the detected predefined operating state, the respective message and/or alarm including the particular information identified by the information associated with the detected predefined operating state.

Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1. The present invention relates to industrial control. In particular, optimized information can be assigned to maintenance and operating personnel corresponding to any alarm or any status message.

Consequently, for each alarm or status message, it can be determined who (persons or site) should receive the information, and what depth of information should be sent via an SMS or email. In the example embodiment described in the specification, a converter U shown in Fig. 1 is utilized. Converter U determines, based on a table, who should receive the message and what information should be delivered.

In the Ghanime patent, an email message is automatically generated when a sensor monitoring a machine detects a fault condition. In particular, when a sensor signal is interpreted as indicating a machine fault, the instruments and computer 108 issue a message to the email server 112 for an email message to be issued that lists, **as the originating source**, the sensor that detected the fault or other such condition. The email message is then sent to the remote monitoring and diagnostic center (MDC). There is no table described therein which associates the fault and a respective distribution group; in the Ghanime patent, the email message is always sent to the same address (MDC). Moreover, there is no table described therein which tells the system the level of detail to send. Claim 1, for example, recites "a table which associates each of the predefined operating states with . . . ii) information identifying particular information to be included in the SMS message and/or email message."

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Ghanime patent does not anticipate any of claims 1 and 4-6. Withdrawal of the rejection is, therefore, requested.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2 AND 3 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over the Ghanime patent in view of U.S. patent No. 6,065,136 to Kuwabara (the "Kuwabara patent"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 3 are not obvious over the Ghanime patent in view of the Kuwabara patent, for at least the following reasons.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, the arguments presented above in connection with claim 1 and the Ghanime patent apply equally to claims 2 and 3. The Kuwabara patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Ghanime patent.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Ghanime patent in view of the Kuwabara patent does not render obvious either of claims 2 and 3. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 is, therefore, requested.

VI. NEW CLAIMS 7-16

New claims 7-16 have been added. Support for these new claims can be found throughout the specification.

As regards claims 8, 10, 12 and 14, each of these claims recites that the table associates at least two of the operating states to a different distribution group. See, e.g., Specification, page 5, lines 34 - page 6, line 1. At least this feature is not taught or suggested by either the Ghanime patent or the Kuwabara patent.

Claims 11 and 15 recite that SMS messages are sent. Neither the Ghanime patent nor the Kuwabara patent mention or suggest SMS messages.

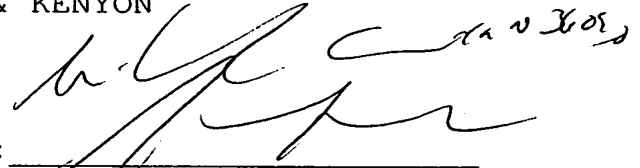
It is respectfully submitted that all of claims 7-16 should be allowed.

VII. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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